United Nations A/HRC/WG.6/31/JOR/2

General Assembly

Distr.: General
24 August 2018

Original: English

**Human Rights Council**
**Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**
**Thirty-first session**
5–16 November 2018

# Compilation on Jordan

## Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

## I. Background

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the periodicity of the universal periodic review. It is a compilation of information contained in reports of treaty bodies and special procedures and other relevant United Nations documents, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints.

## II. Scope of international obligations and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies[1][2]

2. The United Nations country team encouraged Jordan to ratify the United Nations human rights treaties that it had not yet ratified. In particular, it recommended that the Government ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance; accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and the two Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; and withdraw its reservations to articles 9 and 16 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.[3]

3. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination urged Jordan to consider acceding to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.[4]

4. The same Committee recommended that Jordan ratify, among others, the International Labour Organization (ILO) Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol.[5]

5. In 2017, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities encouraged Jordan to take all appropriate measures to ratify and implement as soon as possible the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled.[6]

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6. In 2014, the Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that Jordan consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure[7] and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.[8]

7. The Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) commended the cooperation between Jordan and the special procedures of the Human Rights Council. However, it noted that only one visit had taken place between 2015 and 2017. It noted that in 2013 the Government had established the Office of the Governmental Coordinator for Human Rights in the Office of the Prime Minister, to enhance national efforts in reporting and follow-up to international human rights mechanisms. During the reporting period (2014–2017), Jordan had been under review by six international human rights mechanisms, which was an indicator of progress in its cooperation.[9]

8. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) recommended that Jordan adopt national legislation governing refugee and asylum matters in the country, codifying existing positive practices and human rights treaty obligations; that it consider acceding to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees; and, as an interim measure, that it introduce procedural safeguards in line with international standards for refugees and asylum seekers facing deportation.[10]

## III. National human rights framework[11]

9. The country team and OHCHR noted that Jordan had taken important steps to strengthen the national human rights framework through the adoption of the 2016–2025 comprehensive national plan for human rights, in which it emphasized that individuals' civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights were guaranteed,[12] and through amendments to the Law on the National Centre for Human Rights adopted in 2017.[13]

10. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recommended that Jordan designate an independent mechanism to monitor the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in line with article 33 (2) thereof and in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), allocate sufficient resources for its operation and ensure the participation of persons with disabilities.[14]

11. The Committee against Torture recommended that Jordan ensure that the National Centre for Human Rights was granted access to all detention facilities and was able to carry out unannounced and regular visits to all such facilities.[15]

## IV. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

### A. Cross-cutting issues

#### 1. Equality and non-discrimination[16]

12. The country team noted that Jordan was bound by the definition of racial discrimination contained in the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which takes precedence over domestic law. Despite the provisions of article 6 (1) of the Constitution, domestic law lacked a specific legislative prohibition of direct and indirect racial discrimination, which could impede implementation of the Convention.[17]

13. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommended that Jordan enact comprehensive domestic legislation prohibiting direct and indirect racial

discrimination, in line with the Convention, including all prohibited grounds of discrimination as specified in article 1.[18]

### 2. Human rights and counter-terrorism

14. The Human Rights Committee was concerned about the provisions in the Anti-Terrorism Law of 2006, including the amendments of 2014, which broadened the definition of terrorism to include such acts as "disturbing the public order", "acts that sow discord" and online activity that "supports or spreads ideas" of terrorist groups. The Committee was particularly concerned that this broad definition of terrorism was part of a wider network of security measures, such as the exercise of powers of arrest and detention by the police and the intelligence services. The Committee recommended that Jordan review the Anti-Terrorism Law in order to ensure that it defined terrorism and terrorist acts in conformity with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and international standards[19] and abolish the State Security Court.[20] The Committee against Torture and the country team reiterated the same concerns.[21]

## B. Civil and political rights

### 1. Right to life, liberty and security of person[22]

15. The Human Rights Committee expressed concern that Jordan had carried out several executions between 2014 and 2017, ending the de facto moratorium on executions that had been in place since April 2007. The Committee recommended that Jordan ensure that the death penalty was limited to only the most serious crimes, involving intentional killing, and that it consider reinstating its moratorium on the death penalty.[23] The country team and OHCHR expressed the same concerns.[24]

16. The Committee against Torture was concerned about the absence of a clear provision in the legislation ensuring that the prohibition of torture was absolute and non-derogable and recommended that the principle of absolute prohibition of torture be incorporated into the legislation and strictly applied, in accordance with article 2 (2) of the Convention against Torture.[25] The Human Rights Committee voiced the same concerns.[26]

17. The Committee against Torture was alarmed by several deaths of inmates in custody in 2015, namely those of Ibrahim Abdullah El-Kadri, Omar El-Naser and Abdullah El Zoabi. It was also concerned that the case of Sultan Alkhatatbi, who had died in Jandawil detention facility in 2013, was still pending despite the lapse of time since it had been referred to the Police Court.[27]

18. The Committee against Torture was concerned that torture was considered a misdemeanour and that punishments were not commensurate with the gravity of the acts and were subject to amnesties and statutes of limitation. It urged Jordan to adopt a definition of torture that covered all the elements contained in article 1 of the Convention against Torture, to ensure that torture was considered a crime and that the penalties were commensurate with the gravity of the crime, in accordance with article 4 (2) of the Convention, and not subject to amnesty or pardon.[28]

19. The Human Rights Committee noted with concern the lack of an independent complaints mechanism for receiving and dealing with cases of alleged torture or ill-treatment, as well as the low number of investigations and prosecutions of such cases.[29] The Committee against Torture raised the same concerns.[30]

20. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities noted with concern the reported ill-treatment of persons with disabilities in "shelters", including cases of physical and psychological abuse, which amounted to torture and cruel and degrading treatment.[31]

21. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Jordan amend the Crime Prevention Act in order to put an end to the practice of administrative detention.[32]

### 2. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law[33]

22. The United Nations country team noted with appreciation that the Royal Commission for Developing the Judiciary and Enhancing the Rule of Law had reviewed the framework for judicial proceedings to ensure the right to a fair trial. As such, it had prepared legislative and regulatory amendments, including of article 208 of the Penal Code, to establish the right to legal representation for defendants where there were sanctions of 10 years' imprisonment or more.[34]

23. However, the Crime Prevention Act of 1954 gave administrative governors the power to detain people for lengthy periods with little prospect of recourse to a court. It was a concern that the Act authorized the governor of any state to issue a detention warrant to any woman who was allegedly in danger or under threat. There was no clear judicial procedure for women detained in such a manner to obtain their release.[35]

24. The country team stated that the practice of detention continued, since 455 women had allegedly been detained in February 2018,[36] with 179 in administrative detention, most of whom were non-Jordanians without residency permits, while only 18 were detained in protective custody. All those women had reportedly been sent to Al Jwaideh Correction and Rehabilitation Centre, along with other convicted women.[37]

25. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women expressed concern over what it stated were the persisting barriers to women's access to justice, in particular women's limited knowledge of their rights and the language barriers faced by women wishing to claim their rights, particularly migrant and refugee women.[38]

26. The Committee recommended that Jordan abolish the *kafala* system and ensure that women migrant domestic workers had effective access to justice, including by guaranteeing their safety and residence while legal proceedings were under way, providing a sufficient number of shelters for victims of abuse and exploitation and ensuring that they covered the entire territory of Jordan.[39]

### 3. Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life[40]

27. OHCHR noted that freedom of expression and opinion had suffered a severe setback during the reporting period and that the legal framework governing the media, consisting of more than 20 laws and regulations, was unclear and was frequently overshadowed by the Anti-Terrorism Law, which was allegedly being used to criminalize journalists. The OHCHR regional office stressed that the media law needed amendment to maintain the freedom of social media and to eliminate censorship and criminal sanctions on journalists.[41]

28. The country team reported that at least 11 journalists had allegedly been arrested in 2016, while three arrests had been reported in 2017. It encouraged Jordan to take further legislative and policy measures to ensure the right to peaceful assembly and that civil society organizations were able to operate freely and have access to funding, including by amending the law and relevant decrees that required prior permission to receive funding.[42]

29. OHCHR observed that the space for civil society and unions had been shrinking. It noted with appreciation the 2011 Act on Public Gatherings, which purported to facilitate peaceful assembly. However, it noted that there had been several instances in which civil society had been denied authorization to stage events and hold public seminars. In 2015 and 2016, authorization had reportedly been denied for approximately 60 events tentatively organized by civil society. OHCHR also expressed concern over the restrictions concerning the funding of civil society and the practice of civil society representatives being summoned for investigatory interviews by the security authorities.[43]

30. The Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief conducted a visit to Jordan in September 2013. He commended Jordan for its commitment to religious diversity and noted with appreciation the atmosphere of tolerance that he had observed, in particular between Muslims and Christians. The existing interreligious tolerance was the result of ongoing efforts made in many institutions, including schools, universities, the media, the administration and the national parliament.[44]

31. However, the Special Rapporteur recommended, inter alia, that Jordan collect reliable data and provide statistical information on the religious landscape of the country to combat discrimination; remove the category "religion" from identity cards, as was already the case with Jordanian passports; and ensure that the laws regulating personal status matters were inclusive and non-discriminatory. He also observed that members of non-registered religious communities, including the Baha'is and persons who had converted from Islam to another religion or belief, should be accommodated based on equality.[45]

32. The country team noted with appreciation that the parliament had made significant efforts to consult and include civil society in decision-making and policy initiatives, particularly regarding the adoption of Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) and in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.[46]

33. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was concerned that election materials were rarely accessible to blind persons or to persons with intellectual disabilities and that polling stations were often not physically accessible. It was also concerned at the reported low number of persons with disabilities standing for public office.[47]

34. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was concerned about the reported difficulties that the large population of Palestinian origin continued to experience in relation to their participation in political life and decision-making processes, such as their reported underrepresentation in decision-making bodies, and urged Jordan to enhance the participation of Jordanians of Palestinian origin in political life, including through the use of special measures.[48]

35. The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) noted that in 2003, Jordan had adopted its first parliamentary quota system for women, increasing the representation of women in the parliament from 6 seats in 2003 to 15 seats in 2016. The quota of 25 per cent was also applied to municipal councils. Despite the quotas, the data indicated that Jordanian women remained underrepresented in political life.[49]

### 4. Prohibition of all forms of slavery[50]

36. The Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, visited Jordan from 28 January to 4 February 2016, at the invitation of the Government. She recognized the efforts Jordan had made to prevent and fight trafficking in persons, as reflected in the establishment of the National Anti-Trafficking Committee, the Counter-Trafficking Unit within the Public Security Department and the Karama shelter for victims of trafficking. Under labour laws, migrant workers, including domestic workers, were protected, labour inspections in businesses and households were envisaged and employment agencies were regulated.[51]

37. The Special Rapporteur expressed concern about the perception that human trafficking in Jordan mainly involved exploitation of the labour of non-Jordanians, other forms of trafficking were neglected, including trafficking for sexual exploitation, begging and organ transplant, which involved Jordanians, migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.[52] Similarly, the rate of prosecution of trafficking cases remained very low owing to insufficiently clear anti-trafficking laws, which perpetuated the impunity of traffickers and obstructed victims' access to justice. The Special Rapporteur further expressed concerns that the stay of victims of trafficking in shelters might amount to detention.[53]

38. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women also expressed serious concern regarding the extent of trafficking in women and girls, including frequent cases of Syrian girls lured into prostitution through false promises of marriage and a better life. The Committee called on Jordan to redress the inadequate definition of "trafficking in persons" in the Act to Prevent Trafficking in Persons (2009) and recommended that it investigate, prosecute and adequately punish all cases of trafficking in persons, especially women and girls.[54]

39. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned that thousands of children, mainly boys, were still working in the wholesale and retail trades and in the agriculture

sector, that child labour was widespread among Syrian refugees and that a number of girls engaged as domestic workers faced harsh conditions and were highly exposed to physical and sexual abuse. The Committee urged Jordan to accelerate efforts to eliminate child labour, prioritize the removal of children from the worst forms of child labour, in particular girls working as domestic workers, and ensure that legal action was taken against those who exploited children economically.[55]

### 5. Right to privacy and family life[56]

40. UN-Women noted that under current legislation, Jordanian women were unable to pass citizenship to their children or spouses. As of January 2015, children of Jordanian mothers and non-Jordanian fathers could apply for a special identification card that allowed them to obtain some subsidized government benefits, such as free high school education and health care. A decision by the Minister of the Interior on 9 November 2014 allowed adult children of Jordanian mothers and non-Jordanian fathers to obtain work permits free of charge, but only granted them second priority for jobs after Jordanian citizens.[57]

41. The country team expressed concern over the practice of child marriage, including among the refugee population.[58] While the legal age of marriage was 18, in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, under domestic law the marriage of minors between the ages of 15 and 18 was allowed under exceptional conditions, subject to the discretion of a sharia court judge.[59] Despite revisions to the Personal Status Law in 2001 and 2010, there had been no significant decline in the rate of child marriages. According to studies undertaken by the Higher Population Council in 2017, the data indicated an increase in the proportion of marriages of females under the age of 18 during the period 2011–2015, when the rate had risen from 12.6 per cent of the total number of registered marriages in 2011 to 13.3 per cent in 2014. In 2015, the total percentage of females married under the age of 18 was 18 per cent, of whom 11.6 per cent were Jordanians, 43.7 per cent were Syrians and 13.5 per cent were from other nationalities. In 2017, United Nations agencies had supported a broad awareness-raising campaign on the dangers of early marriage to the health of the child and its impact on society.[60]

42. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recommended that Jordan repeal article 12 of the Personal Status Law to ensure that persons with disabilities could exercise their right to marry on an equal basis with others and found a family based on their full and free consent.[61]

## C. Economic, social and cultural rights

43. The country team noted that Jordan was committed to the 2030 Agenda and to strengthening the safeguarding of cultural identity by promoting and collecting various forms of traditional knowledge, with the long-term aim of contributing to a multicultural society in which cultural diversity was valued, respected and upheld.[62]

### 1. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work[63]

44. The country team noted that the amendments to the Labour Law, which had been adopted by the Cabinet in 2010, had not yet been ratified by the parliament.[64] The ILO Committee of Experts on the Application on Conventions and Recommendations noted that, although under law No. 26 of 2010 Jordanian nationality was no longer a requirement for membership of trade unions and employers' associations, founding members and maybe even union leaders should be Jordanian nationals.[65] While the Jordan Compact had opened up some opportunities for a limited number of Syrians to obtain work permits in specific sectors, many were still deprived of their right to work.[66]

45. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was concerned that labour laws and policies were not regularly enforced to protect foreign domestic workers, as had been reported by the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons in 2016. The Committee remained deeply concerned that foreign domestic workers continued to face abusive and exploitative working conditions, including non-payment of wages, long working hours, passport confiscation, restrictions on their freedom of movement, physical

and verbal abuse, and sexual exploitation. It was further concerned that some foreign domestic workers who had tried to report abuse to the police had reportedly been returned to their employers, imprisoned or deported.[67] The Human Rights Committee raised similar concerns.[68]

### 2. Right to social security[69]

46. The country team encouraged Jordan to extend the National Aid Fund and other services available to Jordanian nationals to long-term residents of Jordan, including those originally displaced from Gaza, regardless of their legal status and without prejudice to their rights under international law.[70]

47. The country team noted that while the social security system had increased its coverage over the previous few years, informal sector workers, accounting for approximately 44 per cent of the total labour force, had yet to be integrated into the four social security mechanisms in place. Although Jordan had established various social protection programmes, ranging from subsidies to social services, there was still no overarching social protection strategy.[71]

48. To address that gap, the country team noted that Jordan had announced its plan to develop a national social protection and poverty reduction plan for the period 2018–2022. On 12 February 2014, Jordan had ratified the ILO Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102). Nonetheless, a progressive implementation of the minimum social security standards contained in the Convention at the national level had yet to be achieved.[72]

### 3. Right to an adequate standard of living

49. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recommended that in line with article 28 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, Jordan intensify its efforts to raise the living standards of persons with disabilities, in particular by supporting their right to social inclusion and self-reliance, in compliance with the voluntary commitment made by Jordan in the context of the universal periodic review in 2013.[73]

50. The Committee on the Rights of the Child was concerned that, owing to their lack of status, many Palestinian families lived in poverty in Jordan without access to the National Aid Fund or to free basic services.[74]

### 4. Right to health[75]

51. The Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, who undertook an official visit to Jordan from 11 to 16 March 2014, recommended that Jordan adopt a comprehensive water law recognizing the human rights to water and sanitation for all, both citizens and non-citizens without discrimination; prioritize the allocation of water for personal and domestic use over other uses; accelerate efforts to implement regional and international cooperation with regard to transboundary waters; and establish strong, independent accountability mechanisms to ensure full compliance by all, including the private sector, with the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation.[76]

52. The country team noted with appreciation that the Higher Health Council had developed a national strategy for the health sector for the period 2015–2019, in line with the objectives set out in the National Agenda for Jordan 2015–2025 that had been developed to realize the Sustainable Development Goals. The country team also noted that through the 2016 adoption of the strategy "Water for all", the Government had committed itself to improving access to water. However, the country team was concerned that according to the 2015 census, only 55 per cent of the population and 68 per cent of Jordanians were covered by at least one health insurance scheme.[77]

53. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was deeply concerned about the practice of subjecting persons with disabilities, especially women and girls with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, to sterilization, despite its prohibition in the fatwa

issued in decision no. 194-02 of 2014, and it urged Jordan to cease the practice of sterilization in the absence of the individual's free and informed consent.[78]

54. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned about the criminalization of abortion, except when the life or health of the pregnant woman or girl was at risk, and the fact that it compelled women, in particular those living in rural areas, to resort to unsafe and illegal abortion practices.[79]

### 5. Right to education[80]

55. The country team commended efforts by the Ministry of Education to provide equitable access to education for all children, regardless of their nationality or legal status. Of significant importance in that area were the decrees issued to enrol every child in the 2017–2018 school year, regardless of status, and covering children who were exempt from tuition and textbook fees. The number of double-shift schools had increased from 197 to 207 schools in host communities and to 47 schools in camps.[81]

56. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women also noted with appreciation that gender parity had been reached in primary education and that female enrolment rates in secondary and higher education were higher than those for boys.[82]

57. The Committee on the Rights of the Child, while noting positive developments, expressed concern that non-Jordanian children, among them children of Jordanian mothers and non-Jordanian fathers and children of parents of Palestinian origin who had had their Jordanian nationality withdrawn, were sometimes victims of discriminatory practices with regard to attending State elementary and secondary schools and were ineligible for free public education.[83]

58. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) observed that, despite the efforts made to counteract them, including the setting up of a gender section within the Ministry of Education, deep-rooted discriminatory stereotypes concerning the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and in society seemed to persist, negatively affecting the educational prospects for women and girls.[84]

59. UNESCO noted with appreciation that Jordan had hosted more than 645,000 refugees officially registered with UNHCR and encouraged it to continue its efforts to ensure the protection of and assistance to refugees and that no child was deprived of education services.[85]

## D. Rights of specific persons or groups

### 1. Women[86]

60. The country team stated that, despite legislative efforts and the application of temporary special measures regarding women's political participation, the data indicated that Jordanian women remained underrepresented in political life.[87] In August 2015, the lower house of the parliament had endorsed a law regulating political parties.[88] Although the new law had reduced the threshold of founding members to 150, it had removed women and youth quotas, indicating a setback in promoting the engagement of women in political parties.[89]

61. UN-Women noted that the Director of the Family Protection Department of the Public Security Directorate had indicated an increase in the number of domestic violence cases it had handled, as 3,649 cases were registered in 2017 compared to 3,528 in 2016.[90]

62. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Jordan (a) strengthen its legal framework for the protection of women against domestic violence by amending article 292 of the Penal Code to criminalize marital rape and removing the grounds for mitigating circumstances for honour crimes; and (b) revise its policy of protective custody and take all appropriate measures to ensure that women fleeing domestic violence had access to shelter and support without jeopardizing their liberty.[91] Three other Committees made similar recommendations.[92]

63. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women remained concerned about the continued existence of articles 97–99 and 340 of the Penal Code, which exempted rapists from criminal liability if they married the victim and stayed married for at least five years, and provided for reduced sentences in certain circumstances for perpetrators of crimes committed in the name of so-called "honour".[93] The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that Jordan put in place, without delay, a comprehensive strategy to modify or eliminate the patriarchal attitudes and stereotypes that discriminated against women.[94]

### 2. Children[95]

64. The Committee on the Rights of the Child urged Jordan to abolish the discriminatory classification of children as "illegitimate" or "children victims of lascivious conduct" and to adopt a proactive and comprehensive strategy to eliminate de jure and de facto discrimination on any grounds and against all groups of children in marginalized or disadvantaged situations.[96]

65. The Committee was deeply concerned about the widespread practice of early and forced marriage in Jordan, which often amounted to the sale of children. It was also particularly concerned about reports that Iraqi girls as young as 11 years of age were sent to Jordan for so-called *muta'a* marriages, whereby the girl's family received a payment for the girl while the "husband" could sexually abuse and exploit the girl and the marriage was terminated at a predetermined time. Some of the girls were also reported to have been forced into a trafficking ring by their "husbands".[97]

66. The Committee was concerned that children of unmarried mothers were often placed in institutions and it recommended that Jordan provide unmarried mothers with support to enable them to take care of their children and conduct awareness-raising campaigns to eliminate the stigma attached to out-of-wedlock pregnancy. It urged Jordan to ensure that children in street situations were neither arrested nor detained.[98]

67. The Committee urged Jordan to explicitly prohibit and criminalize the recruitment and use of children under 18 years of age in hostilities by the armed forces and non-State armed groups and the recruitment and use of children by security companies, and ensure that the crime of unlawful recruitment of children by the armed forces and armed groups applied in both peacetime and wartime.[99]

### 3. Persons with disabilities[100]

68. The country team welcomed decision no. 194-02 of 2014 for the Rendering of Formal Islamic Law Opinions which prohibits the forced sterilization of girls with disabilities and sets out the responsibility of society for girls with disabilities. However, it expressed concern over national legislation that contains provisions discriminatory to persons with disabilities.[101]

69. OHCHR noted that, despite ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in March 2008, concerns remained over accessibility to public and private facilities, including schools, hospitals and other institutions providing services to persons with disabilities.[102]

70. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recommended that Jordan amend its legislation to explicitly prohibit denial of reasonable accommodation as discrimination against persons with disabilities in all areas and ensure sanctions for non-compliance.[103]

### 4. Minorities and indigenous peoples

71. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommended that Jordan ensure that the Nawar/Dom/Roma had full access to economic, social and cultural rights.[104]

### 5. Migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons[105]

72. UNHCR commended Jordan on its efforts to promote continued protection and humanitarian assistance to Syrian and other refugees on its territory and noted that Jordan had not only met the substance of recommendations made during the second cycle of the universal periodic review, but in doing so had played a critical role in establishing a new and powerful paradigm for international cooperation in response to humanitarian crises.[106]

73. UN-Women reported that an estimated 297,418 Syrian women refugees, representing 45.3 per cent of registered Syrian refugees in Jordan, faced different humanitarian and protection needs, such as higher risks of sexual and gender-based violence and early marriage. Registered cases of child marriages had increased from 10,866 to 10,907 in 2016.[107]

74. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was concerned at information that Palestinian refugees from the Syrian Arab Republic were reportedly being denied entry into Jordan and cases of refoulement continued to be reported.[108]

75. The country team also noted that the vast majority of Palestinian refugees registered in Jordan with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East were Jordanian citizens, so were legally entitled to work and have full access to governmental services. However, approximately 158,000 Palestine refugees who had fled Gaza in the aftermath of the 1967 conflict did not have Jordanian nationality and faced restrictions in access to public services.[109]

76. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was concerned over allegations that Syrian refugees and asylum seekers and their children remained vulnerable to statelessness, exploitation and abuse, and urged Jordan to take measures to prevent statelessness, protect vulnerable individuals from exploitation and abuse, ensure the proper birth registration of children of Syrian refugees and asylum seekers, and provide the necessary identity documentation.[110]

77. The Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed serious concerns that Syrian refugee children were reportedly being recruited in refugee camps in Jordan by Syrian armed groups and used in both combat and support roles.[111] The Committee against Torture also expressed its concern about the living conditions in refugee camps that might amount to ill-treatment.[112]

### 6. Stateless persons

78. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was deeply concerned about the reported continued withdrawal of nationality from persons of Palestinian origin from the Occupied Palestinian Territory and urged Jordan to put an end to the withdrawal of nationality from them and restore the nationality of those who had been affected by previous withdrawals of nationality.[113] The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee against Torture raised similar concerns.[114]

*Notes*

1 Tables containing information on the scope of international obligations and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies for Jordan will be available at www.ohchr.org/EN/Countries/MENARegion/Pages/JOIndex.aspx.
2 For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/25/9, paras. 118.29, 120.1–120.22 and 120.28–120.30.
3 See United Nations country team submission for the universal periodic review of Jordan, para. 1 and Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) submission for the universal periodic review of Jordan, para. 1.
4 See CERD/C/JOR/CO/18-20, para. 17.
5 Ibid., para. 28.
6 See CRPD/C/JOR/CO/1, para. 58.
7 See CRC/C/JOR/CO/4-5, para. 66.
8 Ibid., para. 42.
9 See OHCHR submission, para. 2.

[10] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) submission for the universal periodic review of Jordan, p. 3.
[11] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/25/9, paras. 118.1–118.8, 118.10–118.18, 118.20–118.21, 118.26–118.28, 118.34, 118.38, 118.47, 118.105–118.106 and 119.1.
[12] See A/HRC/25/9, paras. 118.6 (Viet Nam) and 118.12 (Ukraine).
[13] See United Nations country team submission, para. 3, and OHCHR submission, para. 5.
[14] See CRPD/C/JOR/CO/1, para. 64.
[15] See CAT/C/JOR/CO/3, para. 32.
[16] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/25/9, paras. 118.35 and 118.65.
[17] See United Nations country team submission, para. 4.
[18] See CERD/C/JOR/CO/18-20, para. 9.
[19] See CCPR/C/JOR/CO/5, paras. 12–13.
[20] Ibid., para. 27.
[21] See CAT/C/JOR/CO/3, paras. 35–38, and United Nations country team submission, para. 7.
[22] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/25/9, paras. 118.110, 118.37, 118.54, 119.5–119.6, 120.27 and 120.31.
[23] See CCPR/C/JOR/CO/5, paras. 14–15.
[24] See OHCHR submission, para. 12.
[25] See CAT/C/JOR/CO/3, paras. 11–12.
[26] See CCPR/C/JOR/CO/5, paras. 16–17.
[27] See CAT/C/JOR/CO/3, para. 25.
[28] Ibid., paras. 9–10.
[29] See CCPR/C/JOR/CO/5, para. 17.
[30] See CAT/C/JOR/CO/3, para. 34.
[31] See CRPD/C/JOR/CO/1, para. 31.
[32] See CCPR/C/JOR/CO/5, para. 19.
[33] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/25/9, paras. 118.42, 118.56–118.57 and 118.60–118.64.
[34] See United Nations country team submission, para. 11.
[35] Ibid., para. 12.
[36] According to a statement issued by the Director of the Transparency and Human Rights Office at the Public Security Directorate on 7 February 2018. See http://menafn.com/arabic/1096444077/الأردن-تضييق-استخدام-الاسوارة-الإلكترونية-في-اذار.
[37] See United Nations country team submission, para. 12.
[38] See CEDAW/C/JOR/CO/6, para. 23.
[39] Ibid., para. 46.
[40] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/25/9, paras. 118.66–118.81, 118.94, 119.8–119.12 and 120.32–120.34.
[41] See OHCHR submission, para. 17.
[42] See United Nations country team submission, para. 18.
[43] See OHCHR submission, para. 18.
[44] A/HRC/25/58/Add.2.
[45] Ibid.
[46] See A/HRC/25/9, para. 118.94 (Lebanon).
[47] See CRPD/C/JOR/CO/1, para. 57.
[48] See CERD/C/JOR/CO/18-20, paras. 14 (d) and 15 (d).
[49] See United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) submission for the universal periodic review of Jordan, para. 8.
[50] For the relevant recommendation, see A/HRC/25/9, para. 118.54.
[51] A/HRC/32/41/Add.1, para. 84.
[52] Ibid, para. 85.
[53] Ibid, para. 87.
[54] See CEDAW/C/JOR/CO/6, paras. 35–36.
[55] See CRC/C/JOR/CO/4-5, paras. 57–58.
[56] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/25/9, paras. 118.107 and 118.55.
[57] See UN-Women submission, para. 12.
[58] See United Nations country team submission, para. 20.
[59] See CEDAW/C/JOR/CO/6, para. 56.
[60] See United Nations country team submission, para. 20.
[61] See CRPD/C/JOR/CO/1, para. 44.
[62] See United Nations country team submission, para. 21.
[63] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/25/9, paras. 118.95–118.100 and 118.102.
[64] See United Nations country team submission, para. 23.

[65] See ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, observation adopted in 2014, available from www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID:3189258.
[66] See United Nations country team submission, para. 24.
[67] See CERD/C/JOR/CO/18-20, paras. 20–21.
[68] See CCPR/C/JOR/CO/5, para. 22.
[69] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/25/9, paras. 118.103–118.104 and 118.126.
[70] See United Nations country team submission, para. 22.
[71] Ibid., para. 26.
[72] Ibid.
[73] See CRPD/C/JOR/CO/1, para. 52.
[74] See CRC/C/JOR/CO/4-5, para. 49.
[75] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/25/9, paras. 118.23, 118.32, 118.101, 118.108 and 118.125.
[76] See A/HRC/27/55/Add.2.
[77] See United Nations country team submission, para. 27.
[78] See CRPD/C/JOR/CO/1, paras. 35–36.
[79] See CEDAW/C/JOR/CO/6, para. 47.
[80] For the relevant recommendation, see A/HRC/25/9, para. 118.109.
[81] See United Nations country team submission, para. 28.
[82] See CEDAW/C/JOR/CO/6, para. 41.
[83] See CRC/C/JOR/CO/4-5, para. 51.
[84] See UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Jordan, para. 13.
[85] See UNESCO submission, para. 14.
[86] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/25/9, paras. 118.9, 118.19, 118.22, 118.25, 118.30–118.31, 118.33, 118.41, 118.43–118.46, 118.48–118.53, 118.82–118.93, 119.2–119.4, 119.7 and 120.23–120.26.
[87] See UN-Women submission, para. 8, and A/HRC/25/9, para. 118.90 (Indonesia).
[88] See A/HRC/25/9, para. 118.82 (Thailand), para.118.85 (Greece), para.118.87 (Rwanda), para.118.88 (Turkey), para.118.89 (Costa Rica), para.118.91 (Djibouti), para.118.92 (Malaysia) and para.118.93 (Maldives).
[89] See United Nations country team submission, para. 30.
[90] See UN-Women submission, para. 18.
[91] See CCPR/C/JOR/CO/5, paras. 10–11.
[92] See CEDAW/C/JOR/CO/6, para. 32, CRC/C/JOR/CO/4-5, para. 30, and CAT/C/JOR/CO/3, paras. 39–40.
[93] See CEDAW/C/JOR/CO/6, para. 33.
[94] See CEDAW/C/JOR/CO/6, para. 30.
[95] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/25/9, paras. 118.24, 118.36, 118.39–118.40 and 118.58–118.59.
[96] See CRC/C/JOR/CO/4-5, para. 16.
[97] See CRC/C/OPSC/JOR/CO/1, para. 20.
[98] See CRC/C/JOR/CO/4-5, para. 60.
[99] See CRC/C/OPAC/JOR/CO/1, para. 20.
[100] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/25/9, paras. 118.111–118.116.
[101] See United Nations country team submission, endnote 57.
[102] See OHCHR submission, para. 24.
[103] See CRPD/C/JOR/CO/1, paras. 11–12.
[104] See CERD/C/JOR/CO/18-20, para. 25.
[105] For relevant recommendations, see A/HRC/25/9, paras. 118.117–118.124 and 119.13.
[106] UNHCR submission, p. 2.
[107] See UN-Women submission, para. 27.
[108] CERD/C/JOR/CO/18-20, para. 16 (b).
[109] See United Nations country team submission, para. 22.
[110] See CERD/C/JOR/CO/18-20, paras. 16–17.
[111] See CRC/C/OPAC/JOR/CO/1, para. 21.
[112] See CAT/C/JOR/CO/3, para. 13.
[113] See CERD/C/JOR/CO/18-20, paras. 14–15.
[114] See CEDAW/C/JOR/CO/6, para. 12. See also CAT/C/JOR/CO/3, para. 16.